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Development (1945) Department.

SERIES

G.O. No. 1117

Dated 11th March 194

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agriculture - Grow More Food - Periodical conference to review at Ministerial level - Proceedings of the first meeting held on 3rd instant from 4th of February 1948 - Communicated.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

AGRICULTURE - Grow More Food - Periodical Conference to review the Progress at Ministerial Level - Proceedings of the first meeting held on 3rd and 4th February 1948 - Communicated

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Development Department

G.O.Ms.No.1217, Dated 11th March 1948.

O R D E R:

A copy of the summary of proceedings of the first periodical conference held on 3rd and 4th February 1948 for reviewing the progress of the Grow More Food Schemes during 1947-48 is communicated to the Director of Agriculture, Director of Industries and Commerce, Director of Veterinary Services, Board of Revenue, Inspector of Municipal Councils, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Chief Engineer (Irrigation) and Director of Public Health for information and necessary action.

2. A copy of the proceedings is also communicated to Revenue, Public Works, Food and Finance Departments for information and

BY ORDER OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Agriculture
To the Director of Veterinary Services
To the Director of Industries and Commerce
To the Board of Revenue
To the Director of Public Health
To the Registrar of Co-operative Societies
To the Chief Engineer (Irrigation).
To the Inspector of Municipal Councils
Copy to Food Department
" Revenue Department
" Finance Department
" Section, Development
" " "
" Public Works Department

TO

G.M.F. PERIODICAL CONFERENCE/REVIEW
MINISTERIAL LEVEL:

Notes of discussions at the first Periodical Conference to review the progress of the Grow More Food Campaign at Ministerial level held in the Cabinet Room at 3 P.M. on 3-2-1948 and continued on 4-2-1948 at 11-30 A.M.

PRESENT:-

The Hon'ble the Premier
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Food
" " Revenue
Rural De
P.W. & Irrigation
The Secretary to Government, Development Dep
Food Department (on 3-2-48
Rev. Deptt (on 3-2-48 only)
The Joint Secretary to Govt.
The Secretary to Govt. P.W. Deptt (on 3-2-48 only
Finance Dept
The Addl. Secretary to Govt
The Director of Agriculture
The Director of Industries & Commerce (on 3-2-48)
The Joint Director of Agriculture
" Veterinary Services

The Commissioner of Land Revenue
The Joint Secretary, Board of Revenue (on 4-2-48 only)
The Chief Engineer (Irrigation) (on 3-2-48 only)
The Director of Public Health
The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards
The Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

Opening the discussions, the Hon. Minister for Agriculture explained the object of the Conference and said that the Conference had been covened on the suggestion of the Government of India to review the progress achieved by the G.M.F. campaign in order to ascertain the defects and draw-backs in the implementation of the schemes and to evolve ways and means to rectify them. He therefore asked the Heads of Departments concerned to explain what had been done till then and what had to be done in future to accelerate the Grow More Food Schemes.

The Hon'ble Minister for Food wanted concrete figures of the increase in production in terms of grain in order to place the case before the Government of India, as that Govt. which had given them subsidies, asked what the Madras Govt. had achieved by their G.M.F. programme. He also wanted particulars of the increased acreage cultivated and how much more could be brought into cultivation. He further pointed out that our Province was short by nearly 17 lakhs tons of rice this year as only 4 lakhs of tons were promised from outside out of 21 lakhs tons of our requirements for the year, and that the Government had asked us to depend on our local production to make up the deficit.

The Hon. Premier wanted to know how much increase in grains had been achieved during the past two or three years during which period this Government got money from the Government of India.

The Hon. Minister for Agriculture explained that concrete increase in grains could not be shown in a year or two as the programme was a five-year scheme. He said that the target fixed for the Grow More Food programme was 5.5 lakhs tons of rice and 17,000 tons of millets to be achieved by the Agricultural Department, by the end of the five-year period; and that an increase of 1 lakh tons of rice was expected by P.W. and Revenue departments by improved irrigation sources and wells. How far the work had been done, it was for the Heads of Departments concerned to explain and to point out whether there was any difficulty in the working of the schemes and what help they needed from the Government for its removal.

FISHERIES SCHEMES

lone by his Department, dealt first with the deep sea fishing operations and pointed out the difficulties with which they were faced. The main difficulty was that these operations required special type of boats, trawlers etc., and the vessels purchased from the Army surpluses were proving troublesome. Giving the figures of their achievement, he stated that 9 lakhs lbs. of fish were caught which fetched a revenue of Rs.70,000 upto 30th September. He also pointed out that the main trouble was that the boats now used did not stand the climatic conditions and copper sheathing was required to go further deep into the sea. When asked by the Hon. Minister for Food whether the east-coast was not suitable for deep-sea fishing, the Director said that deep-sea fishing on the east coast was not so successful as that on the west-coast. He stated that they were carrying on research work and Rs.2,400/- worth of fingerlings were distributed for stocking in fresh water tanks. He also referred to the fishing in Adyar back-water and said that a total area of 28000 acres had been brought under fishing operations which fetched 1½ tons of fresh fish and it was marketed in different parts of the Province. Expressing dissatisfaction at the low yield of fish in such a vast area, the Hon. Premier stressed that poaching should not be allowed. He pointed out that the normal yield per acre of fish pond was 1000 to 1500 lbs. worth about Rs.1000/- to Rs.1,500/-

The Director gave the assurance that the area would be distributed amongst several fishermen under a 'licence system'. He also suggested that some refrigeration vans should be run from Calicut to Madras for the preservation of fish.

The Hon. Minister for Agriculture pointed out that in the West-coast a portion of the fish was used for extracting oil to be used for painting boats etc. and that this must be prevented in view of the food shortage.

IRRIGATION:

The Chief Engineer for Irrigation, explaining the work relating to his Department, stated at the outset that the programme for 1947-52 had just been started and as soon as investigation of each scheme was ready it was put up for sanction. So far 37 schemes had been sanctioned and about 20 or 25 were pending consideration by the Board of Revenue or Government. By these schemes 20,000 acres had already been brought under cultivation. Another 20,000 acres were expected to come under cultivation for which 21 schemes have been drawn up and estimates submitted to the Government. Of these 37 schemes sanctioned, 29 schemes had already been taken up for execution. These were schemes which required some sort of subsidy from the Government of India. Quite a lot had been done in Deltas where water was actually available and where it was not available we were able to increase the area irrigated by digging channels etc. More than one lakh of acres of new land were brought under irrigation since the war began. In the Cauvery-Mettur area 15,000 acres had been brought under irrigation by carrying out works costing 5 lakhs of rupees. Nearly 30,000 to 32,000 acres have been brought under irrigation in Kistna and Godavari districts for a very small expenditure of money. This was due to the fact that water and land were available and by small works all those lands could be brought under the plough. The Department was trying to do more in the non-delta districts.

Continuing the Chief Engineer said "We want a great deal of propaganda. Another difficulty is that the ryots are not able to meet the initial reclamation charges. In fact we had a discussion at the previous meeting in the Board's office and I have suggested ways and means of getting these programmes which I have mentioned are only in the stage of initiation and so we cannot expect any large expenditure to be incurred on these schemes at once; nor can we expect any results in the coming year or two. These irrigation schemes are a class by themselves and they take a lot of time for sanction. It takes about 18 months time to examine them and get them sanctioned because every scheme has to pass through various procedures and most of the schemes exceed the limit of Rs.20,000/-. The rules of the financial procedure and the rules in the P.W.D. Code are very much in the way of our progress. It is not possible to obtain quick results so long as these procedures are in vogue. In fact I tried to get a method by which I can eliminate this procedure. I put the whole programme for five years for sanction but it did not pass the doors of the Government. I have therefore to submit each scheme for the sanction of Government"

Proceeding, the Chief Engineer said "Previously could sanction a scheme and apply to the Government of India for a grant later, but now we have to get prior approval. We mentioned this to Mr. S.Y. Krishnaswamy when he was here. He said he would facilitate matters What we started 5 years ago are now producing results. The present schemes will actually produce results onl after 3 or 4 years."

n. Premier suggested a conference of officers for t settling these matters quickly rather than by protracted correspondence.

he Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, said that after the preparation of the estimate, the Revenue Department had to inspect the lands and decide what water rate could be charged and they had to satisfy themselves with the return on the scheme. The Finance Department also insisted on our telling them what return is expected on the project. The Revenue Department depends on the Board, the Board depends on the Collectors and the Collectors depend on the Revenue Inspectors for inspection and thus it takes 2 to 3 months after the Chief Engineer's plan was submitted. The Commissioner of Land Revenue intervening said that there was no delay in the Board but the delay was with the Collectors and that he was pointing them out to the Collectors.

cussing these matters previously with the Secretary to Gov ment Public Works Department, and the Hon. Minister. He said, "I have introduced a system which will quicken matters. As soon as an estimate is ready I myself write to the Collector and send a copy to the Executive Engineer. If Mr. Kudva is good enough to instruct the Collectors to expedite matters, it would be very effective". Mr. Kudva said that he would instruct the Collectors to give the highest priority to these schemes

he Secretary, Public Works Department, said that 37 schemes had been sanctioned so far and 29 were under execution. He said that there was no delay in the Secretariat. He further pointed out that in actual practice they were sanctioning almost every scheme, whatever might be the Board's report and whatever might be the Finance Department's criticism as the temper of the Ministry was to push these schemes through quickly. He was of the opinion that if they got rid of the Board and depended upon the Chief Engineer's estimate, the whol trouble would end. The Hon. Minister for Revenue suggested that the criterion of yield for productive works should be applied on a group basis. At present each extension was treated as though it was independent for the main work whi was yielding 10 or 20% on capital. The Hon. Premier sugge that the critierion of fixed return for the irrigation schemes might as well be abolished as it was fixed many years before under different conditions.

P.W.D. could give the cost of the scheme per acre. The Chie Engineer replied in the affirmativ

The Secretary, Finance Department objected to the sug gestion of the Chief Engineer for the formation of a High Power Committee for expediting the sanction of irrigation schemes, as there was a Standing Finance Committee and pointed out that if a High Power Committee was formed for irrigation schemes every other Department would also ask for a similar Committee. But the Hon. Minister (P.W.) stated that irrigation stood in a different footing and that the formation of a High Power Committee would help to expedite the schemes at all stages.

The Chief Engineer pointed out another difficulty regar supply of rations to the labour employed in the irrigation schem He stressed that due to 8 ounces of ration, many labourers left the works and a great difficulty was felt to push through the schemes. He was however of opinion that now that ratio ing was removed, labour conditions would be better. He also wanted that ration shops should be opened to provide the labourers more rations to serve as an inducement to stick to their work and that their rations should be raised at least tc 10 ozs.

he Chief Engineer next pointed out the difficulty in getting machinery like bull-dozers, tractors etc. He had approached the authority to get these things but in vain. The Agricultural

Department was kind enough to give 5 bull-dozers and promised to give one more. That Department had got 20 to 25 more. If they lent some more at least on temporary loan it would be useful to his Department.

The Hon. Premier desired to know how these bull dozers would be useful for irrigation works. The Chief Engineer explained that if a scraper was attached to the tractor, the scraper would dig the earth from the tanks and the bull-dozers would form bunds. Those machines proved to be most advantageous also to clear silt from tank beds. He stated that the use of these tractors would be very economical and would cut down the cost to 50 to 60% without displacing the manual labour to any serious extent.

The Joint Director of Agriculture explained the position in regard to the availability of tractors and bull-dozers in the Agricultural Department. Out of 33 bull-dozers in Agricultural Department there were only 24 units in working condition. The small dozers were being used for ploughing. It would not be economical to use semi smaller ones for levelling, bunding, etc. for irrigation works.

When asked about the extent of area that can be dealt with by a tractor per day, the Joint Director said that it would depend on the nature and particular type of the land that was dealt with. Even though there was the difficulty of spare parts, the Joint Director said that the machinery had worked very satisfactorily. As regards spare parts, he mentioned that two officers of the Department were deputed to Bombay but it proved futile because the Bombay ~~xxx~~ Government took the best from the imports landed at the Bombay port. There was also another difficulty on account of Bombay Govt.'s ban on export (which has since been lifted). The Joint Director also pointed out that spare parts suitable for bull-dozers were not manufactured locally due to lack of special grade of steel and alloys. As regards the foreign imports, he said that there was a great demand and competition among foreign countries for these machines, and that if we wanted machinery after two or two and half years, an indent had to be placed now.

The Joint Director of Agriculture next drew the attention of the Conference to the difficulty in getting diesel oil for pumping machines. The premier oil companies were contacted and they replied that ~~x~~ oil supplies were cut down. The Government however asked them as an immediate measure to supply liberally to those districts affected by failure of the North-East Monsoon, viz. North Arcot, South Arcot, Chittoor and Chingleput by short supply to other

As for the request of the Chief Engineer to spare from the Agricultural Department some more bull-dozers, the Joint Director agreed on the condition that the P.W.D. must spare some pump sets.

The Chief Engineer next raised the question of shortage of technical staff. He suggested that as at present there was no enthusiasm for candidates to throng to the Overseers' course. He suggested that these men might be appointed as lower division clerks

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

As far as [illegible]ent is concerned the figures of wells sunk and the areas brought under cultivation and the quantity of food grains actually grown were furnished by the Secretary. The note circulated prior to the meeting (copy not enclosed) gives these figures in full, but the main data are given hereunder for convenience.

The two big well sinking schemes are the accelerated Subsidy Scheme for repairs to old wells and the construction of new wells introduced in 1946, and the New Well Loan and Subsidy Scheme, 1947. The Accelerated Scheme should have come to an end by 15th June 1946 but it has been extended from time to time and the last time till 30th April 1948 for repair works and 30th June 1948 for new wells to enable those who had made substantial progress to complete the works.

Accelerated Scheme - Figures till 31-10-1947.

	Completed	Acreage	Food in tons
New Wells	37,653	48,067	20,577
Repairs to old wells	22,616	23,431	9,756
Total till 31-10-194	60,269 (old and new wells).	71,498	30,327

	Wells in progress	Food in tons expected.
New Wells	19,726	10,000
Old Wells	5,299	2,500
	25,025	12,500

The amounts disbursed as subsidies were 85 crores and recovery has been ordered in respect of 2,772 cases for default in fulfilling the condition of the grants.

The New Well Loan and Subsidy Scheme is now in force. A sum of Rs.1.6 crores has been allotted for the scheme, this year that is 1947-48. The target fixed for the year was 37,500 wells (and a few 'tanks' in South Kanara and Malabar). On 31st October 1947 97,499 applications for wells had been received of which 51,172 had been disposed of and loans actually paid in the case of 13,653 cases involving an amount of 46.27 lakhs. It is expected that all the applications would have been disposed of by now. The Commissioner of Land Revenue was confident that the entire amount would be spent this year. If the target is achieved we might expect about 28,000 tons more of food grains per annum. In view of the fact that such a large number of applications have been and are being received, there is likily no need for any propaganda to invite applications and it has been decided that the scheme could easily be continued for next year also with a similar target. A budget provision to an extent of 1.6 crores of rupees has been made for the purpose and another addition of about 28.000 tons of food grains can be expected after 1948-49.

It has to be emphasised that unlike the schemes of the Department of Agriculture which depend upon recurring expenditure etc., the well scheme requires only preliminary capital investment, and with reasonable care in future years can continue to produce the results achieved without further expenditure to Government. They are also short term schemes in the true sense because the wells are expected to be complete within a year or two and the results will be realized in the course of the succeeding years. Moreover, they constitute pockets of insurance in areas unserved by major irrigation works, and when sunk in the ayacuts of tanks, may make all the difference between a successful crop and failure.

The Director of Agriculture pointed out that there was a danger of wells getting dry if the water table sunk. While thi is no doubt true, the remedy is to sink wells deep enough so tha even in the worst season they will contain water. It is desirable to concentrate on the well scheme in areas where ther are good facilities for lifting/electric or other power.

The Hon'ble Premier was anxious that subsidies should not be thrown away on wells that are not deep enough or broad enough for the purposes hoped for, that they should be excavated preferably during the driest part of the year, that inspection should be frequent and careful and if at any time during the war such inspection had become slack, it should now be emphasised that officers of the Revenue Department should give first attention to wells and minor irrigation works. The Premier also pointed out that the question of Min Irrigation works had been neglected in the past on more productivity and average return tests and ~~works xx xxxiy xx~~ that a drive should be launched for repairing the Minor Irrigation works as early as possible irrespective of financial considerations. We wanted that the amount allotted for minor irrigation works this year which has been increased from Rs.17 lakhs to 37 lakhs should all be spent.

The main bottle neck, it was explained, was lack of ... A proposal is under consideration for handing over minor irrigation works to the P.W.D. and as an experimental measure the system is proposed to be introduced in the Chingleput district. Though the P.W.D. has the same difficult as regards personnel and machinery it is hoped that the experiment may be successful because of their greater resources.

The Director of Agriculture complained that he would be unable to make progress with his schemes in the districts unless the Revenue Department co-operated with him fully. He was requested to inform the Government and the Board of Revenu of the nature of the help required by him so that suitable instructions could be issued to the officials of the Revenue Department.

At the end of the discussion Mr. S.Y. Krishnaswamy made a few observations informally. He was at pains to emphasise that he was not there in a representative capacity. He was glad of the opportunity of explaining the position as far as he was free to do so to the conference. He made the following points:-

...artilizers: ... world production had gone down considerably and India failed to get sufficient consideration for her requests in International Conferences because of her lack of prestige. He suggested, however, that the manure that was available should be concentrated in areas where optimum results could be achieved, that is in areas where improved see were available and irrigation supply was assured and could be properly controlled. He suggested that the areas ~~where optimu results~~ brought under wells particularly under the ayacuts of tanks would be suitable for intensive use of fertilizers.

He suggested that schemes that would produce immediate results in 1948-49 should be concentrated upon for the solution of the present scarcity. Grandlose schemes whose results might be achieved for a decade or more are now taking away ever the staff available, and it was desirable that such investigations should for the present not be taken up at the expense of urgent schemes like tanks and wells that could be completed within a short period. As far as the Govt. of India were concerned their policy was he understood it was that as long as there was actual increase of food production under a particula scheme, the Govt. of India would not worry about the technical details of it or fix any other standards. The sole test was productivity and if a Provincial Govt. sent up any such schemes to the Govt. of India after having satisfied themselve that the schemes would be productive of more food, the Govt. of India would be inclined to accept them since Provincial Governments could be trusted to have a sense of responsibility in the matter. Approval of the Government of India was likely to be given as quickly as possible.

SECOND DAYS PROCEEDINGS.

AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES.

The Director of Agriculture opened the discussion on schemes relating to the Agricultural Department. He said:- "Yesterday, the Hon. Minister for Food raised the question whether the G.M.F. Campaign has resulted in any extra production of Food in the Province. I may say, sir, that from some points of view the G.M.F. campaign has been a great success and paradoxically, as it has been, it has been a great failure also. If you want to judge the value from the contribution of this campaign, we have to consider what was the condition before the campaign. In the years before the war, Ammonium sulphate was very rarely applied to the paddy crop. The total consumption of Ammonium Sulphate was in the order of 20,000 tons. The bulk of it was used for plantation crops, potatoes and sugarcane. But as a result of the G.M.F. campaign and as a result of the extra allotment of Ammonium Sulphate we are using about 60,000 tons for agricultural purposes in the Province. No doubt a good portion of this is diverted for other more paying crops; but it is possible that at least 30,000 tons are applied to paddy crop every year in this Province as a result of the campaign and every ton of Ammonium Sulphate applied to paddy crop will give an extra yield of 3 tons. So the contribution by way of application of Ammonium Sulphate alone is in the order of 1 lakh tons of extra paddy.

When ~~it~~ asked by the Hon. Minister (Food) whether these results could be expected this year also, the Director of Agriculture, said that so long as this manure was applied the results would continue.

Explaining the dosage or Ammonium Sulphate per acre and its effects on the soil, the Director of Agriculture said Ammonium Sulphate could be used not only as a basal dressing but also for regular manuring without the addition of organic manures although supplementary organic manures would be beneficial. He pointed out that experiments on Agricultural Stations have shown that more application of Ammonium Sulphate had resulted in increase of production.

Answering query by the Hon. Minister (Food) whether he has got any statistics to show that the application of Ammonium Sulphate would result in increase of production without any organic manures, the Director said: "Application of Sulphate of Ammonia, ~~kkkx~~ though injurious to the soil in the long run, will certainly result in increase of yield by 10%. There is already organic matter in the soil. But if you want to improve our yield to two or three times, then we certainly require organic manures. To solve our immediate food problems we have to resort to Ammonium Sulphate

ne second point is, before the war Groundnut cake was seldom applied to paddy crop. It was largely used for mixtures sugarcane cultivation and cattlefood. But as a result of contr we have been able to ~~xxxx~~ procure about 2 lakhs of tons of groundnut cake from a production of about 3 lakhs of tons in this Province. No doubt a good portion of this cake is diverte for other purposes though the ryots purchase normally for application to paddy crop. Of these two lakhs ~~x~~ of tons, it is possible one lakh of tons is applied to the paddy crop and every ton of groundnut cake applied to the paddy will give an extra yield of another ton of paddy. So the contribution by groundnut cake alone is in the order of 1 lakh of tons".

Proceeding the Director said: "The extra yield from various other manures is in the order of ~~1~~ lakh of tons i.e. from super-phosphates, Ammonium Phosphates, and other miscellaneous manures".

"Another important aspect of the G.M.F. campaign is the spread of improved seeds and in fact it is the most important item in our five-year programme which is expected to give 3.5 lakhs of tons of paddy in a target of 9.76 roughly. To a query by the Hon. Premier the Director of Agriculture stated that the Department had distributed 12.540 tons of improved seeds from Departmental depots and that too paddy alone (millets being very little) and these seeds would cover an area of one million acres. These one million acres would yield half a lakh of tons extra paddy that is at 1/20th ton per acre.

Proceeding the Director of Agriculture said, "I must point out that there is a great flaw in our G.M.F. Programme. We are expected to get 3.55 lakhs tons of paddy from improved seeds spread on an area of 7.1 million acres. In fact we have got, out of 14 million acres of paddy, four millions under improved seeds, and we expect to bring 7 million acres more under improved seeds. It is very difficult to say whether we are going to supply seeds for fresh areas. The flaw is that this improved seed or improved strain will not give you the extra yield for a series of years unless the land is manured and no provision is made in our programme for manuring these 7 million acres. This is the fundamental drawback in the whole programme and all our expectations to get 3.55 lakhs of tons from improved seeds will prove only illusory. The improved seeds take more manurial ingredients from the soil than the normal seed and unless the soil is manured, not only the improved seeds will depress the yield in the course of years but also the soil will be injured. This has been experienced in other countries and I have asked the agricultural farms here to conduct experiments under Indian conditions. If you draw more from the land you will have put back into the land what you have drawn."

To a query from the Hon. Premier the Director of Agriculture stated that about 8 million acres were irrigated with paddy under perennial supply of water. The rest of the land was cultivated by tanks and wells and various other sources.

Proceeding the Director said "I said in the beginning that the G.M.F. Campaign was a very great failure also. It is a failure in this sense. It did not evoke enthusiasm amongst the ryots to bring larger areas under cultivation, even to keep the existing area under food at the same level. In three years we have lost 3.5 million acres under food crops. They have not been converted to money crops. 1.3 million acres have completely gone out of cultivation. They have become fallow. The reason is this. It is not any fault of the Grow More Food Campaign. The fact is it does not pay the ryot for cultivating these lands. So the ryots choose to keep the land fallow, paying the kist. We have lost 1.6 million acres of millets in the last three years largely for the reason that millet are raised in marginal lands, and this 1.6 million acres represent the sub-margin at the existing price level. Now as a result of the de-control there is an increase in the market price in the various districts and I expect that this increase in prices will bring back this area under cultivation in the near future. The prices have gone up by 50% and very much more. We did not pay in the past bonuses to cultivate millets. The prices have gone up. They will now be tempted to cultivate the lands for millets. The 1.6 million acres under millets which we have lost would have yielded 3 lakhs of tons of millets. So what we gained by intensification of cultivation of paddy has been lost by way of millets. That means our food position has remained the same. The food position is stationary. It cannot be denied that on the whole the G.M.F. has contributed something. The position would have been worse but for this campaign. So we cannot say that the campaign was a failure. It was a success, but owing to factors which are not part of the G.M.F. Campaign, it was a failure."

Continuing the Director said: "Now I referred to the decontrol policy of the Govt. This has also created some special difficulties in our way; that is, this year we have to procure the seed paddy from the ryots in February and March. There is a disparity between the marke price and the ceiling price fixed by the Collectors. Fo instance in Chittoor district, the ruling price is about Rs. 24-26 per 100 lbs.; the ceiling price fixed by the Collector is Rs.16-8-0. If we purchase from the ryot, w should pay about Rs.18/-. It is too much to expect the ryot to part with that paddy for Rs.18/- whereas he can easily get Rs.26/- in the open market. So the question is what are we to do. The obvious thing is to purchase the paddy in the current price in the market. The other alternative is to coerce the seed farm ryots to give it at controlled rate; but if you resort to coercion, it may stand in the way of future development of seed farms. If your purchase ~~xx~~ at current market rate it is quite possible that the price will go down. The price is not ~~xx~~ stationery. The price has shot up now, but may come down soon. We must have definite instruction about the price at which we should purchase and sell. In case there is any difference between the purchase price and ~~x~~ selling price, the difference between ~~between~~ the purchase price and selling the Government will have to bear this difference. The loss will not exceed 6 lakhs of rupees, because we have to procure 15,000 tons of paddy from the seed from ryots."

To a query by the Hon. Premier, the Director of Agriculture, stated that he was purchasing the seeds both in the surplus and in deficit districts, and that too only at the controlled rate, but if we paid the market rate, we would get it, otherwise it might not be possible. The point has to be considered by the Government urgently as we have to make the purchase immediately.

Proceeding the Director of Agriculture said:--"Manures and seeds form the most important items in our programme. The others are more or less long-term measures to be developed in the country and cannot be expected to contribute much immediately.

To another query by the Hon. Premier whether it would not be possible to follow the example of Australia in regard to wells, the Director of Agriculture said that it would take years. "We have got 8 lakhs of wells in the Province and the total area is in the order of 1.8 million acres. It has taken centuries to construct these 8 lakhs wells. Are we going to have an appreciable increase to this number in the next few years ? The next question to be considered is supposing we embark on a scheme of digging wells, are we able to get water in all wells ? For instance in Anantapur District about some years ago there was a big campaign for digging wells and loans were given on a very large scale. After two years there was a completion depletion of water in the whole area. The Governor visited the area and wrote off the amounts and closed down the scheme. No investigation was made as to the cause of the complete dessication. We have to take steps to augment the sub-soil water and unless we take that step simultaneously we are not going to get any great results by digging wells. There are measures adopted in other countries which we can very well adopt here also. I refer to schemes which are adopted in America, viz. Re-charged wells - wells with reservoirs which directly connect water with subteranean sources with the result that the level will increase. Another measure we can adopt is surface dams in some of our rivers. These are constructed below the level of the rivers; so, they are not expensive. They help to store water in the areas above the dam with the result that the sub-soil water will rise in the neighbourhood and the water level will be maintained."

Explaining the position of green manures, the Director of Agriculture said: "In the last year we distributed 600 tons of green manure seeds. This year we have already sold that much in 3 months time and we hope to purchase something more and sell. There are some difficulties in the way of getting figures for the whole province because the time of purchase will vary from tract to tract. The time of sale will be different. So we cannot possibly say off hand how much we procured and how much we sold. Erukka is one of the best among the seeds and we have made arrangements to gather these seeds. The ryots have, xx xx no superstitions or sentimental objection to grow those seeds. The ideal solution is to raise these shrubs on paddy land bunds. The ryots can cut them and use them whenever they want"

To a query by the Hon. Minister for Food about Avaram the Director said that in many districts it was not being used as green manure but only for tanning

To another query by the Hon. Premier whether we cannot get sunnhemp seeds from the United Provinces and Bengal, the Director said that if large indents were placed they would get invariably only inferior stuff.

The Director of Agriculture
thing we can do is that in the course of next few years there must be a sort of legislation to compel every ryot to grow green manure in his land. It can be planted even along with the paddy crop and this will thrive in any condition, even under water. So we may have to think of legislation, but that will take some time. But until that is done, we are not going to solve our problems".

Answering a query from the Hon. Minister for Agriculture as to the immediate things he wanted from the Govt. the Director of Agriculture said:— "The price for purchase of seeds from ryots should be fixed immediately". The Director was against the system of bonuses for cultivation of food crop He was against giving rewards to ryots for growing green manure but insisted on a legislation being launched for compelling ryots to grow these seeds. He was optimistic of the future as controls were removed now. In this connection he asked whether they have increased any acreage by resorting to bonuses for cultivation of food crops previously. He was strongly of the view that the ryots would automatically x cultivate xhx more lands, if the price of grain was increased by de-control and there was no necessity for bonuses or rewards. The Director also said that we must press on the Government of India for a greater allotment of fertilizers.

The Director of Agriculture next insisted c co-operation from Revenue Officials who were dressed with more authority and power influence over the ryots. The Hon. Premier also suggested that Revenue officials should tell the ryots these things as their work would have more effect on the ryots than those of the Agricultural Demonstrator or other Agricultural officials.

To x xx a query by the Hon. Minister for Agriculture as to why we should not decontrol groundnut cake from 1948, the Director said that it could be done as there was no risk of cake being diverted to sugarcane and other less essential crops. He added that there are two new factors now. Firstly the fall in the price of jaggery as a result of which it is not likely that any large quantity of groundnut cake will be used for sugarcane crop this year. Secondly, the ryots will certainly go in for cake for paddy, in view of the great increase in the market price of paddy. So the question of decontrol of groundnut cake may be seriously considered. Dealing in groundnut cake may be handed over to the trade channel

As regards iron and steel, the Joint Director of Agriculture said that out of a provincial allotment of 30,000 tons only 15,000 tons were allotted to Agriculture and only 7,000 tons were so far received. He gave details of the works done by tractors the number of oil engines and pumps supplied, electric motors recommended for supply to ryots by manufacturing firms etc.

COMPOST SCHEMES.

Explaining the work done by the Public Health Department, the Director of Public Health said that his Department was concerned with only the preparation of co post and the marketing of it was done by the Co-operativ Societies and the local bodies themselves. Out of the compost manufactured, 70% was being sold by the Co-operativ Societies. From the commencement of the scheme 11.8 million c.f.t. have been produced of which 8.1 million c.ft. were sold to ryots. In 1947 the compost manufactured was about 5 million c.f.t (1 lakh tons). There were four Departments which were concerned in the compost work, viz., the Public Health, Co-operative Department, Local Boards and Agricultural Department. But they had got every co-operation and they were doing their best.

Explaining the methods of preparing compost, the Director of Public Health said that there were two methods the Bangalore process and open trenching process. He referred to the visit of the Biochemist of the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, who remarked that the methods of preparation of compost in this province was very satisfactory. The Hon. Premier stressed the importance of increasing the production of compost.

VETERINARY SCHEMES.

Speaking next, the Joint Director of Veterinary Services said that the poultry scheme in this province was a success, but unfortunately no figures could be furnished. There was a high mortality in chickens as certain drugs could not be secured till recently. He suggested that the Medical Department might be requested to provide some space in the refrigerators to keep their vaccines. To this the Hon. Minister for Agriculture replied that they had already taken up the matter with the Medical Department and orders have already been issued. He also referred to the scheme for salvaging x of cows and said that his department was only indirectly involved in the question of milk production. As regards cattle, he suggested that cattle farms should be opened in all districts with different kinds of breeds.

CO-OPERATIVE SCHEMES

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies then explained the work of the Co-operative Department and said that the land reclamation societies in Tanjore brought 2,500 acres of land under cultivation during three years. Under the Land Colonization Societies Scheme, 10,000 acres were given to them and they had brought 9,000 acres under cultivation.

As regards Milk Supply Societies, he said that they had got 22 Milk Supply Unions and 260 Societies and that they were handling 17 lakhs of rupees worth of milk in the province which was higher than in any other province in India. Schemes have also been framed for ~~other~~ development./ further

As regards poultry he said that there was the Government of India Scheme which was put into operation in 33 centres in the Province to collect eggs and market them. 14 lakhs of eggs were marketed in the last year.

As regards compost manufacture, the Registrar assured that they could do more but there was always a tie between the

municipalities...

municipalities and Co-operative Societies because Municipalities and Panchayats wanted to get as much profit as possible and so there was some delay. On the propaganda side, they were depending on the Agricultural Department, and he requested the Agricultural Department to instal in ryots the compost in rural areas.

Mr. S.Y. Krishnaswamy Speech

Mr. S.Y. Krishnaswamy, O.B.E., I.C.S., Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture who was present spoke as follows:

Certain points have been raised in this Province just as in any other Province with regard to the difficulties about the Grow More Food Campaign. I would like to say something from the point of view of the Government of India. The first difficulty is the non-availability of Nitrogenous manure We have spared no efforts to get more supply. Every effort i being made to get greater supplies to this country. I myself was present at the I.E.F.C. meeting and urged the case for the Government of India. Unfortunately the world supply has gone down by one-third, partly because most producing areas like Japan and Germany are not likely to produce for some time to come. This year we asked for 320,000 tons of Sulphate Ammonia but we were actually allotted 180,000 tons and this includes our local production also. When they allot quantities for different countries, they also take into account how much each country produces and allot something in addition to it. So the allotments are made on an international basis and I would only suggest that if we have got short supply, it is our duty to concentrate that supply on areas where we can expect optimu results there is no use distributing it for all 24 districts on Political or other grounds. We are facing serious crisis and that it would be averted only if the supply available is concentrated where optimum results would be achieved in one or two years.

The second point is the question of wells. It was already raised by the Chief Engineer and the Director of Agriculture. Every Province is digging wells. In Madras Province there are 40,000 applications pending for wells, and the Government of India will give subsidies for the wells. I know that there are certain areas on the Ramnad Coast which are ideally suited for tube wells. Recently the Madras Government wrote to us and asked for survey of Vridhachalam taluk. Our Officer came down and 163 sites were selected for digging wells and I can assure you that if your can irrigate that portion and also the adjoining areas, the Government of India will render necessary financial help; I know that there are several wells in South Arcot and North Arcot districts which are owned by private parties and which contains more water than is required for them. I suggest to the Madras Government to take measures to see that this water is also made available to others". Intervening the Premier said that the private parties were selling the water and they were not wasting it.

Proceeding Mr. Krishnaswami referred to the Poondi Reservoir i Chingleput district, and suggested wells might be dug in the neighbourhood of the Reservoir and a special subsidy might be granted for that purpose. In this connection he stated that the Central Government were not concerned about what kind of subsidy is given but they want only to know whether the subsidy will result in any increase in food. He also pointed out that there are good areas along the Ramnad coast where quick methods of reclamation are possible.

As regards supply of Iron and Steel, Mr. Krishnaswami said here also we are confronted with so many hurdles due to strikes not only in Iron Works but also in the Coal

and consequently the production has fallen. The Government of India are particular about the priority to Railways because transport is the most essential thing. We have taken up the question with the Ministry of Industries and we hope give you a lump allotment for agriculture in future."

As regards the prior approval by the Government of India for Grow More Food Schemes, he stated that as soon as the schemes were received from the Province, one copy would be sent to the Finance Department and immediate approval was being given for prima facie sound schemes. It was also the wish of Hon. Sri Jairamdas Dowlatram, the Food Minister that those schemes which would produce optimum results in 1948 should be given immediate approval.

Continuing he said "At the recent meeting of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at which Mr. Sathianadhan represented Madras Government, it was pointed out to the Govt. of India that Madras is keeping all groundnut cake and expects Orissa to send rice. The C.P. and Orissa Provinces told me that the Government of India should request the Government of Madras to send at least the previous quota of groundnut cake which used to be sent to those Provinces. I pointed out that the Central Government had no authority on this matter and that I could only point out what was told by the other Governments. Vizagapatam used to send Groundnut cake to Orissa but now the supply is stopped; I request the Madras Government to make up their mind in this matter."

The Premier remarked "This Province requires 3 lakhs of tons of cake but our supply for manurial purposes is only 2 lakhs of tons and hence there is a deficit of 1 lakh of tons and our ryots are using more Groundnut cake as manure than any other Province". Mr. Krishnaswami suggested that, if not Groundnut cake was spared to other areas, there was the possibility of Sulphate of Ammonium allotted to Madras being curtailed. Some kind of adjustment was necessary

Dealing with the question of Irrigation works, Mr. Krishnaswami pointed out that extra efforts should be made to repair Minor Irrigation Works which is worthwhile and that the Government of India would give 50% as subsidy for them. He suggested that the existing tanks be improved before taking up new Minor Irrigation works. For that also the Government of India were willing to give 50% of the cost including the cost of the supervising staff. In all these Minor Irrigation tanks the practical difficulty pointed out was want of adequate technical staff. There was shortage of staff throughout India as in Madras. Madras was in a better position when compared to Orissa and Central Provinces. It was pointed out by certain Governments that fully qualified personnel were being concentrated on major schemes which would not yield immediately. Mr. Krishnaswami suggested for the consideration of this Govt. the desirability of concentrating some staff on Minor Irrigation Works.

Speaking about bonus for coupons for manures Mr. Krishnaswami said that before issuing manure coupons he wanted the Government to take stock of the manures as there might not be sufficient stocks to implement this scheme. The Hon'ble Premier referred to the delay in the sanction of subsidy by the Government of India for the scheme. Mr. Krishnaswami said that it was a matter for the Food Minister.

As regards the decontrol of Groundnut cake, he suggested that the matter might be reconsidered by the Government.

Coming to the topic of spring ponds, tanks for encouraging the digging of wells and the deepening of ponds. He wanted to know why it was considered necessary to fix Rs.500/- as the maximum for a well. He suggested that there should be a maximum fixed for specific areas.

He also informed the conference that the Hon'ble Minister for Food in the Government of India wanted to change the designation of "G.M.F. to "Food Self-Sufficiency Drive".

Dealing with the block grant for Food production, Mr. Krishnaswami said that the Govt. of India were developing a theory that even if a general block grant is given, the 50% policy should continue. It had not been decided whether this block grant should lapse or continue. They were trying to see that it should not lapse and that it should be reserve as a Special Fund. Taking the several provinces, the whole of the Provincial expenditure last year was only Rs.1.25 crores. No province was able to spend more than 25% of the Allotment

The Hon'ble the Premier expressed the view that the unspent amount of the Provincial grants should not lapse and that the unspent balances should be reserved as a Speci Fund.

The Conference then concluded.

(GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Development Department

Memorandum No.50129-AIII/48-1, dated 6th May 1948.

AGRICULTURE - Grow More Food - Periodical conference to review progress at Ministerial level - Proceedings of the fir meeting held on 3rd and 4th of February 1948 - Erratum issued.

Ref: ---

Ref: G.O.Ms.No.1217 Development, dated 11th March 1948
From the Registrar of Co-operative Societies
No.9940/48, dated 29th April 1948.

The following sub-para may be substituted for the existing sub-para 2 beginning with the words "As regards Milk Supply Societies....." under Co-operative Schemes in the Proceedings of the first Grow More Food Periodical Conference communicated with G.O.Ms.No.1217 Development, dated 11th March 1948:

"There were 21 Milk Supply Unions with 220 feeder societies affiliated to them. There were also 49 independent societies functioning in places where Unions have not been formed. During the year 1946-47 these unions and societies handled about 28 million lbs. of milk valued at Rs.68 lakhs. Schemes have also been formulated for further development.

To all the address entries contained

(True copies)

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

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